

REMARKS

Claims have been amended for the sake of clarity. New claims 12-20 have been added.

Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over M. Fukumoto et al., "FINGER-POINTER": POINTING INTERFACE BY IMAGE PROCESSING in view of Cohen-Solal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,028,269).

Fukumoto et al. discloses a three-dimensional interface which can recognize finger pointing actions and simple hand forms in real-time by processing image sequences of the actions and forms captured by cameras. The Office Action is correct that Fukumoto et al. does not disclose or suggest using a microphone to check that the origin of a sound is close to a position of a hand of the user.

Cohen-Solal et al. fails to fill the gaps. Cohen-Solal et al. discloses a multi-modal video target acquisition and re-direction system. Video camera targeting systems locate and acquire targets using an input characterizing a target and a machine-classification system to assist in target acquisition responsive to the input. The system is able to determine an object to which a user is pointing with their hand. The system also discloses an array of microphones which can be used to pinpoint the source of sounds. Col. 8, lines 6-12. But neither Cohen-Solal et al. nor Fukumoto et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest using a microphone to check that the origin of a sound is close to a position of a hand of a user. In addition, neither Cohen-Solal et al. nor Fukumoto et al. disclose or suggest a control device for controlling the at least one electrical unit when it is determined that the hand is positioned close to the origin of sound.

Conversely, the claims recite the features of checking the origin of the sound with regard to a position of a hand of the user, and controlling the electrical unit based on the checking. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11 further recite "positioning on the control screen a cursor in accordance with movements of a hand of a user detected by said cameras, and for controlling a determined electrical unit when: the cursor is on the image of said

determined electrical unit", which is not disclosed or suggested by either Fukumoto et al. nor Cohen-Solal et al., either alone or in combination. Fukumoto et al. may disclose using a hand to position a cursor (see e.g. Fig. 1) and using hand movements to control an electrical unit (e.g. VCR) (see e.g. Fig. 15), but Fukomoto et al. does not disclose or suggest positioning a cursor to control an electrical unit when the cursor is on an image of the electrical unit. Cohen-Solal et al. fails to fill the gaps because it neither discloses nor suggests such a cursor or image of the electrical unit, nor controlling an electrical unit by placing the cursor on the image of the electrical unit. For at least these additional reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukumoto et al. in view of Cohen-Solal et al. and further in view of Lyman (U.S. Patent No. 4,303,836).

Lyman discloses an audio silencer for radio and television sets. The silencer is adapted to suppress the audio output of a radio or television set during commercial breaks in a program. Neither Lyman, Fukumoto et al. nor Cohen-Solal et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest using a microphone to check that the origin of a sound is close to a position of a hand of a user, and a control device for controlling the at least one electrical unit in accordance with movements of a hand of a user detected by said cameras when the hand is positioned close to the origin of sound. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

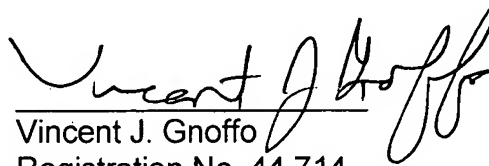
Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukumoto et al. in view of Cohen-Solal et al. and further in view of Pryor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,042,440).

Pryor et al. discloses methods and apparatus for inputting position, orientation, or other object characteristic data to computers. Television cameras provide output that is analyzed and used as input to a personal computer. Neither Pryor et al., Fukumoto et al. nor Cohen-Solal et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest using a microphone to check that the origin of a sound is close to a position of a hand of a user, and a control device for controlling the at least one electrical unit in accordance with movements of a hand of a user detected by said cameras when the hand is positioned

close to the origin of sound. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

For at least the above-identified reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the application be allowed. If for any reason, the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent J. Gnoffo", written over a horizontal line.

Vincent J. Gnoffo
Registration No. 44,714
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200

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